

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Final Office Action mailed on July 29, 2008, which had been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 and 15-18 remain in this application, where claims 4 and 6 had been withdrawn, and claim 14 had been canceled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 11-13 and 15-18 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 1-3, 5, 7-8, 11-13 and 15-18 are allowed.

In the Final Office Action, claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0094893 (Ellens). It is respectfully submitted that claims 9-10 are patentable Ellens for at least the following reasons.

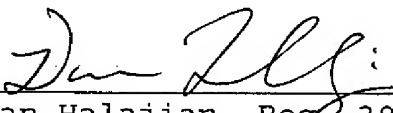
Claims 9-10 depend from independent claim 8 which is allowed. Accordingly, claims 9-10 are allowable at least based on their dependence from allowed independent claim 8, as well as their individually patentable elements.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that withdrawn claims 4 and 6 be rejoined to the application as being dependent on an allowed independent claim 1, and thus are allowable at least based on their dependence from allowed independent claim 1, as well as their individually patentable elements.

In addition, Applicants deny any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicants reserve the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Dicran Halajian, Reg. 39,703
Attorney for Applicant(s)
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THORNE & HALAJIAN, LLP
Applied Technology Center
111 West Main Street
Bay Shore, NY 11706
Tel: (631) 665-5139
Fax: (631) 665-5101